NOTES

(Continued)

sitated the resignation of Sir Sa'adullah and his remaining colleagues. But before the latter had done so a no-confidence motion was brought against him which was carried with the support of the Congress party. Sir Sa'adullah took no part in the proceedings as he had already announced his intention to resign immediately on the arrival of the Governor at Shillong. Accordingly, Sir Sa'adullah resigned and the Governor called upon the party leaders with a view to ascertain their respective strengths and entrust the leader of the majority party with the formation of a Cabinet. Mr. Bardoloi, Sir Sa'adullah and Mr. Chaudhury all interviewed the Governor. According to the official statement Mr. Bardoloi had declined the offer and Sir Sa'adullah was not presumed to command a majority after the no-confidence motion, but Mr. Chaudhury had wanted to form ministry on the strength of the Congress party who had pledged only a restricted support. In the circumstances as no stable ministry could be form, section 93 of the Government of India Act 1935 was invoked and the constitution suspended.

There is a great stir in the Congress Circles at Assam and Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury, who had calculated to come back as the head of the next Government, has been sorely disappointed. It is very significant that the progressive nationalist party, of which Mr. Chaudhury is the leader, has on its roll only 26 members in a house of 107. The Congress party was vehemently opposed to the re-establishment of Sir Sa'adullah's Government, obviously for no other reason than that he happens to be a Muslim. If, as is given out, Sir Sa'adullah did not really command the majoriry, Mr. Bardoloi having admittedly declined to form the ministry, the Governor had no alternative but to suspend the constitution.

Generally we do not approve of suspension of the constitution in any part of the country but there is no force in Mr. Bardoloi's contention that a party consisting of 26 members in a house of 107 could be entrusted to carry on the Government of the province, Mr. Bardoloi says that the suspension does not affect him or his party. The situation is intriguing in that despite his professed disinterestedness Mr. Bardoloi is no less perturbed at the suspension than Mr. Chaudhury himself. In fact he was keenly interested in the affair. His own hands having been tied up on account of the present Congress policy he had wanted to rule over the province through Mr. Chaudhury who would be entirely dependent upon the support of the Congress party. The Assam affair is yet another instance of Congress inconsistency. The only consideration that seems to weigh with them is that any stick is good enough to beat the Muslims with.

Provoking Muslim League

CONGRESS IN BLIND ALLEY: SAYS DR. LATIF

In a statement to the *Associated Press* on the resolution of the Congress Working Committee, Dr. Syed Abdul Latif, one of the authors of the Pakistan Scheme, says: "The Congress Working Committee has again crawled into a blind alley. If it was really anxious to undertake the defence of the country on a national basis at this grave hour, it shoul'd have at first come to terms with the Muslim League without whose co-operation no Government could be formed, truly representative in character.

The Committee should have concentrated its attention on the immediate present even as the Muslim League has done and reciprocated its offer of co-operation with it and other parties in prevailing upon the British Government to allow them to form a truly representative Indian Government both at the Centre and in the provinces during the duration of the war, without prejudice to the major political issues involved in the framing of a future constitution for India.

"To insist on a settlement of the question of India's independednce as a condition of participation in the defence of the country is to provoke the Muslim League to insist on a prior settlement of the independence of the Muslims in an Independent India on the lines of Pakistan.

"Since this issue will not be considered by the British Government unless the Congress and the League and other parties come to some compromise between themselves, the Bardoli resolution of the Congress Working Committee which is meant to be a significant gesture to British Government will bear no fruit.

"The British Government cannot settle anything directly with the Congress over the head of the Muslim League. The Congress must realize this and make amends in proper time if it is in earnest to help the country to defend hereself on what it calls a "National Basis."

Congress Claim Untenable

Mr. Edwin Haward On Deadlock

The claim that the Congress Party Leaders have been converted to the support of the Allies is untenable, writes Mr. Edwin Haward, the wellknown writer on Indian affairs, in the *Sunday Times*. The party's co-operation, he continues, depends on the Government's acceptance of the terms to be ascertained on inquiry, and adds: "from words let fall by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, it is clear that the terms revive demands for prejudgment of the constitutional issue in a sense which would at once arouse strong opposition of the Muslim League."